

Message Text

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PAGE 01 PORT O 00778 221537Z
ACTION IO-13

INFO OCT-01 ARA-10 ISO-00 AGRE-00 AID-05 MED-03 HEW-06
L-03 H-02 DEAE-00 CIAE-00 INR-07 JUSE-00 NSAE-00
SNM-02 TRSE-00 USIA-15 NSC-05 OES-06 OMB-01 IOE-00
/079 W

-----221546Z 040345 /53

P 221510Z MAR 77
FM AMEMBASSY PORT OF SPAIN
TO SECSTATE WASHDC PRIORITY 465
INFO USMISSION GENEVA PRIORITY

UNCLAS PORT OF SPAIN 0778

E.O. 11652: N/A
TAGS: SNAR TD
SUBJ: CONGRESSIONAL HEARINGS ON DECRIMINALIZATION
OF MARIJUANA

REF: STATE 57902

1. PROVISIONS GOVERNING MAIJUANA POSSESSION CONTAINED
IN TRINIDAD AND TOBAGO NARCOTICS CONTROL ORDINANCE
NUMBER 27-1961. SECTION FOUR OF ORDINANCE PROVIDES
INTER ALIA, THAT "A PERSON WHO HAS IN HIS POSSESSION
ANY NARCOTIC IS GUILTY OF AN OFFENCE AND LIABLE--(A)
UPON SUMMARY CONVICTION TO IMPRISONMENT FOR A TERM
OF NOT LESS THAN 6 MONTHS AND NOT MORE THAN 18 MONTHS;

(B) UPON CONVICTION ON INDICTMENT TO IMPRISONMENT FOR A TERM OF NOT
LESS THAN 6 MONTHS AND NOTE MORE THAN 7 YEARS."

THIS SECTION FURTHER PROVIDES THAT
"EVERY PERSON--(A) WHO TRAFFICS IN ANY NARCOTIC OR
ANY SUBSTANCE REPRESENTED OR HELD OUT BY SUCH PERSON
TO BE A NARCOTIC, OR WHO HAS IN HIS POSSESSION
ANY NARCOTIC FOR THE PURPOSE OF TRAFFICKING IS
GUILTY OF AN OFFENSE AND IS LIABLE UPON CONVIC-
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TION TO IMPRISONMENT FOR A TERM OF SEVEN YEARS."
FOR PURPOSES OF THIS ORDINANCE, NARCOTIC IS
DEFINED TO INCLUDE MARIJUANA (CANABIS SATIVA L.).

2. THE NARCOTICS SQUAD OF THE TRINIDAD AND TOBAGO
POLICE, HOWEVER, ADVISES THAT IN PRACTICE FINES
AND NOT IMPRISONMENT ARE GIVEN IN MOST CASES.

THIS IS DONE UPON THE AUTHORITY GIVEN TO MAGISTRATES
UNDER THE SUMMARY COURT ORDINANCE (CHAPTER 3 NUMBER 4)
WHEREBY MAGISTRATES MAY IMPOSE A FINE IF AN
ORDINANCE DOES NOT SPECIFICALLY FORBID THE IMPOSI-
TION OF THE FINE. ACCORDING TO NARCOTICS SQUAD
MEMBERS, THE FINES ARE USUALLY NOT LARGE, WITH THE
HIGHEST FINE EVER GIVEN OUT THAT OF TT \$1,000
(APPROXIMATELY US \$400) TO AN INDIVIDUAL WITH A
LARGE QUANTITY OF MARIJUANA IN HIS POSSESSION AND
PRIOR CONVICTIONS.

3. PERSONAL USE OF MARIJUANA IS WIDESPREAD IN THE SOCIETY
AND TO SOME DEGREE IS LINKED WITH ANTI-ESTABLISHMENT
POLITICS. AMBIVILENCE ON SUBJECT OF MARJUANA IS
THEREFORE COMMON AND IS INTERWOVEN WITH OTHER ATTITUDES
UNRELATED TO NARCOTICS. POLICE ENFORCEMENT ACTIONS
APPEAR DESIGNED MOSTLY TO CURTAIL DOMESTIC MARIJUANA
PRODUCTION AND PREVENT ESTABLISHMENT OF ANY ORGANIZED
TRAFFICKING.
FAY

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Message Attributes

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Capture Date: 01-Jan-1994 12:00:00 am
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Sent Date: 22-Mar-1977 12:00:00 am
Decaption Date: 01-Jan-1960 12:00:00 am
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Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment:
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Disposition Event:
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Litigation History:
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